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MEHL'S Numismatic Monthly

A Numismatic Journal for the General Collector, and especially for the beginner and young Collector

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1908

PUBLISHED BY
B. MAX MEHL
Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.

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These coins were issued for the Nigerian Protectorate. They are perforated in center to permit the natives to string them.
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B. MAX MEHL

NUMISMATIST

P. O. Box 826 - - - - - - - Fort Worth, Texas

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

Vol. I. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, AUGUST, 1908 No. 8

Newspaper and Magazine Clippings pertaining to Coins thankfully received. Contributions from those interested in the Science solicited and liberally paid for

The Coin of the Realm

A CAUSTIC COMMENTARY ON THE ARTISTIC FAILURES OF "THE FORM BEFORE WHICH WE BOW DOWN," BY A WELL KNOWN ART CRITIC.

BY PERITON MAXWELL.
In the "Bohemian."

From Alexander the Great to Theodore Roosevelt is a dizzy spanning of the so-called centuries of civilization, but human nature, marching ceaselessly over this bridge two thousand years long, remains at the present-day terminus precisely what it was when the journey began. The Macedonian ruler busied himself persistently with the coinage of his empire, striking out old legends, adding new ones and ending always by approving the newest likeness of himself cut in the die. The big boss of our own national shop, somewhat after the fashion of old Alexander, mayhap in nimble emulation of him, has recently ordered wiped off our American coinage the long acceptable motto, "In God We Trust," thereby kicking up a huge rumpus and a continent-wide cloud of verbal dust. Of the pro and con merits of the controversy nothing will here be expressed; I point out the historic parallel merely as a matter of philosophic amusement and to show that the workings of a twentieth-century headpiece may match to a cog some long-silenced mental mechanism laid away on the shelf of time.

Money, the price of joy and of pain, is one of the most engaging studies in the history of the human race; it makes ones' imagination jump just to handle any ancient coin and

"Why," the author asks, "cannot we have coins bearing the features of our Presidents?"

speculate upon its power, persisting through the centuries as a silent agent for the barter of life and death; in one hour the equivalent of bread; in next poison; the dispeller of want today, the suicide's last stake tomorrow. The man must be intellectually dead indeed who cannot see in fancy the vast drama of the years unroll itself as he looks upon the primitive gold stater of Miletus, the earliest known coin in any metal, or handles a drachma piece of Aegina, the world's first silver coin.

Beauty in Coinage Has Deteriorated.

It is a strange fact, and one that does small credit to modernity, that as the world has progressed in every other department of life the one dominating factor of the globe, money, has detiorated in design, in beauty of idea and in cleverness of execution. Our American coins for more than a century have been a series of metal nightmares. Our earliest money pieces—the New England shilling, the Pine Tree pence of 1652, the coins sent over for use in the American colonies by George the Third, and the several dollar, half-dollar and penny pieces bearing portraits of Washington—are all of better design than anything now in circulation in this country. Crudely minted as these first coins were, they at least have simplicity, an understanding of the limitations of metal stamping, and a good balance of inscriptions with the pictorial effect. Take any of the pieces now in circulation in these United States—anything from the copper one-cent-piece with its aenemic Indian head to the silver half-dollar with its pseudo-Greek profile and its frightened eagle raising from a garland of garlic, and you have a set of coins compared with which the mintage of England, France, Austria, Italy, Germany, Spain and every other Continental country are as the sculptures of the Parthenon beside the snowman of your small boy in the backyard.

We are a commercial people, proud of our supremacy in trade, industry and invention, and yet we are content to handle, day in and day out, a circulating medium which is less attractive than wampum and not as beautiful as some buttons. It would seem that we as a nation of money-worshippers should employ the highest skill and the keenest brains obtainable when it came to a question of molding the form before which we bow down. The trouble has been all along that the designing of our coins has been left in the hands of the mechanics of the mint; men well-meaning and practical enough in the mere

An interesting example of imported American coin. These pieces were brought to New Jersey in 1681 from Dublin and were in actual circulation nearly one hundred years.

manufacture of money, but men without a scintilla of taste or training in art. When new coins were needed these men have given the American eagle a different twist of the neck, added a wing feather or two, hidden its poor, distorted anatomy with a shield or have turned to the shield and portrayed Liberty in a fool's cap and have branded her with a strong Hebraic cast of countenance.

To realize how hideous is our American coinage one has only to compare any of our pieces with such beautiful examples of practical numismatics as the English crown of 1847; the quadruple piece of Austria, minted in 1840 and having on its obverse a bust of Ferdinand I, and a hundred other foreign specimens. The metal money of France, Belgium and

Spain has set a standard of design for fifty years to which our own coiners have been totally blind, grossly indifferent or too incompetent to appreciate. When some American designer has ventured from the rut of kindergarten ornithology or amateur

The original of "Liberty"; the head of Dido on a coin of Carthage 2,100 years old.

portrait drawing, as in the case of our present five-cent and twenty-five-cent pieces, it has been to "lift" bodily and appropriate, without improving, the imprint of some other nation's coin. Our nickel piece of 1898 is almost line for line that of the French franc of 1851 and our dime of 1900 is a heavy modification of the same coin.

It has long been the claim of American designers that no mere artist could supply a sufficiently practical drawing or idea suitable for the intricate purposes of die-sinking and stamping. But this contention could scarcely hold true in the face of what other countries have done and are doing in the way of supremely artistic metal money. And yet only a few months back there was witnessed an exhibition of the artist versus the artisan in coinage which very nearly silences criticism and places the mechanic of the mint on a surer footing than he ever before maintained. I refer the new double-eagle coin, the St. Gaudens' $20 gold piece. As a work of art, a miniature medallion in high relief, this coin is extremely beautiful, but in its first state, after less than eight thousand of them had been struck off, there never was a coin since the days of Pompey and Sextus so impracticable for general circulation as this thick, unwieldly disc of gold.

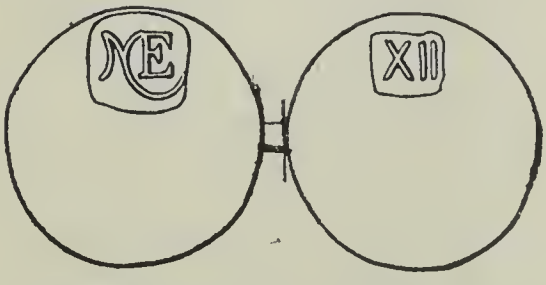
Whether intentional or not, a quantity of these twenty-dollar curios got into active use, and Wall street, ever on the quivive for a sensation and a chance to turn it into profit, promptly sent the face value of the new coin soaring premium-ward with a story that in making the Roosevelt-St. Gaudens' double eagles thirty dollars' worth of gold had been run into them. Despite the instant denial of the United States treasury officials, the story that the foot of the workman who ladled out the gold for the new coin had slipped at the critical moment of casting, making him pour out an excess of the precious metal into the crucible, spread up and down the street and agitated the Curb Market in a way that was strange to see. From twenty-two to twenty-eight to thirty dollars the double eagles soared. Coin collectors, too, bought up hundreds of the new pieces, and today the original issue is about as scarce as the silver dollar of 1836, known as the Gobrecht piece, which now brings a standard premium of fifteen dollars. That the St. Gaudens' coin could not be stacked up in piles by cashiers and paying-tellers; that it lacked flat edges

The progenitor of the American eagle on our coinage. This is a Ptolemaic copper cent in circulation three centuries before Christ.

and was not milled, but inscribed with raised letters around the rim; that it was weightier than any of our other gold coins, was certainly not the fault

of the noted American sculptor who designed it.

The next issue of this much-discussed double eagle will doubtless be more carefully and properly made. It will stack as easily as it will spend, and we shall then have at least one



The New England silver shilling, first coin made in this country at the Massachusetts mint in 1652. It is as crude as the coins of Miletus of ancient days.

coin of the realm that is good money and good art. The thousands who have written to President Roosevelt urging him to put an end to the further coinage of the latest gold pieces, or at least to restore the phrase, "In God We Trust," do not know that the President has no power now to abandon the new design, even though he should strongly desire to do so. Once a coin has been approved and its issuance ordered, it cannot be changed for a period of twenty-five years except by a special act of Congress. This is the state of things today. The St. Gaudens' coin will continue in circulation for the next quarter century, unless Congress orders the use of other designs. As an indication of the popular disapproval of the removing of the old religious motto, whole communities are urging their legislative representatives in Washington to uphold a bill now pending which seeks not only to withdraw the St. Gaudens' piece, but directs that "In God We Trust" be placed hereafter on **every** American coin that comes out of the mint.

The pretty squabble over our newest coin recalls the widespread controversy arising from the issuance of the famous Fugio or Franklin cent. This coin was expressly ordered by resolution of Congress, July 6, 1787, although it was struck by private contract, and the bulk of the issue was minted in Connecticut. It became almost instantly noted as the "Franklin copper," because of the pithy sentence on it, "Mind your business," which sounded so much like the philosophy of "Poor Richard" that it was attributed, as a matter of course, to Benjamin Franklin. He did recommend the adoption of good, plain mottoes on our coinage, but would neither affirm nor deny that he was responsible for the injunction stamped on the new money. He was condemned for the motto by some of the newspapers of the period, and praised by others. Some high-minded persons went so far as to declare they would neither carry in their pockets nor accept as change a coin which was made the medium of a crabbed old man's still more narrow and crabbed philosophy. Many were the personal encounters and bouts of fisticuffs engaged in over this doit of copper. Just the same,

An example of really good coin portraiture on a silver piece with likenesses of Philip and Mary.

the "Mind your business" penny was the principal, indeed almost the only, article of copper currency down to the issue of a new penny piece six years later.

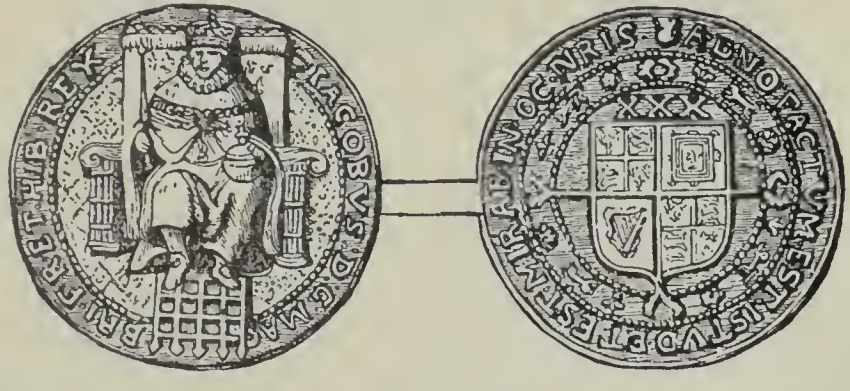
Another notable instance of public disapproval of American coinage was that of the weird one-cent piece issued from the newly established mint in 1793. Alexander Hamilton was at that time Secretary of the Treasury, and both he and the President, George Washington, were roundly abused for permitting so hideous and meaningless a coin to pass into circulation. What the people at large thought of the new money seems to have been echoed in the Boston Argus, of March 26, 1793, which commented on the fresh mintage thus:

"The chain on the reverse is but a bad omen of liberty, and Liberty herself appears to be in a fright. May she not justly cry out, in the words of the Apostle, Alexander, the coppersmith, has done me much harm: the Lord reward him according to his works!"

The way of the coiner is apparently hard; the only pity is that a public designer's office was not created at the establishment of the first United States mint, an office which in this commercial country, more than in any other, should be esteemed as that of the Secretary of the Treasury. With such an office, and in it some man who knows numismatic history and the artistic as well as the practical side of coinage, we might yet hope to have a series of American money pieces that would stand comparison with the metal art works of other lands and other eras.

How We Get Our One-Cent Pieces.

The evolution of our present copper cent is one of the interesting facts of American coin history. Every one will concede that the very meek and feminine-looking Indian on the face of this coin is nothing short of ridiculous; its symbolism is meaningless, its idea weak and un-American. It was out of the coin portrait of the terrified woman whose back hair had broken from its moorings to be immortalized on the penny of 1793—the penny for which Hamilton and Washington were so justly criticised—that the characteristic red person on our one-cent piece has grown.



Gold thirty-six shilling piece of James I. A fair example of intricate coin designing. What was done in King James' day we may hope to do today.

The streaming hair of the 1793 model was carefully combed back in the 1794 penny, and in 1796 the young woman looms up with positive comeliness, her rebellious locks neatly arranged on the back of her head, a little cluster of saucy ribbons. Then, after passing through a strange and ugly metamorphosis, in which there is an admixture of Greco-Teutonic types, this same reformed female comes into being once more on the one- and three-dollar gold pieces of 1854, this time gorgeously bedecked with a high headgear of ostrich plumes. It was an easy transformation from curled plumes to straight feathers, as

worn by the American Indian chiefs; that the Colonial girl's features were retained and the head-dress of savages put a-top of them did not seem to perturb the stolid designer of our copper currency.

And so today we have millions of red pennies afloat, and still other millions being constantly issued from the same old design of 1859, which as works of art are nil, as pieces of practical or commercial symbolism are entirely without meaning, and as money are too low in denomination to command even a miser's respect, except in enormous quantities.

It is alleged that the feminine fright on the 1793 penny was copied from the unique "half disme" (dime) struck off experimentally in 1792, and the portrait on which is that of Martha Washington, who is said to have sat to the artist while he was designing it. If this is true Lady Washington is then the great-grandmother of the Indian freak on our present copper cent.

Typical early Greek coin showing careful drawing of face and the figure on the obverse.

Freaks and Fancies in Coining.

Of other freaks and fancies in American coin history there are numerous instances. The most noteworthy of these are, of course, the earliest bits of stamped metal circulated as money in the Colonies. In Virginia and Maryland, in the early days, tobacco was the chief medium of exchange, and among other things, its purchasing power, up to one hundred and fifty pounds, bought many a good wife. But of coinage proper perhaps the queerest type was that of the "ring" cent, a piece about the size of a dime, with a circular hole in the center, around which was inscribed, on one side, "U. S. A., one-tenth silver," and on the other, "cent—1850." A dollar and a half-dollar, in gold, embodying the same idea, and a silver "ring dollar" were struck in 1852. The inspiration for these queer coins found its origin, no doubt, in the metal currency of China and Japan, which from time beyond reckoning has consisted of discs pierced through the center with a square hole. It is needless to recall that the American imitation of Oriental coinage had only a brief existence and no popular or official approval at all. This is interesting, as showing that Americans have made very little effort at originality in coinage.

Who Posed for Our Coins?

The question is often asked, "Who was the original model?" reference being to the feminine face on some very old or some very recent coin. In the main there have existed but few originals of any of these coin lineaments, and the reason is simple: Coin designers very rarely use a model. Excepting in cases where absolute portraiture is demanded, as in the coinage of European countries with its likenesses of reigning monarchs, the heads to be found on coins, both ancient and modern, are mere fancies of the designers, idealized femininity typifying some such sentiment as liberty, equality, industry and the like. On our own coins of every denomination, for a century and a half, only three traceable portraits appear. These are Martha Washington, Lady Ham-

ilton and the young Irish woman of New Jersey who posed for the new St. Gaudens' double eagle. But even in this last instance the features are not altogether those of the model; indeed, no artist engaged upon an ideal work ever portrays the model as she exactly is, for something of spiritual quality must go into the making of every artistic idealization. Examine all our American coins bearing a female head, from the disheveled lady of 1792 (which after all is only a crude caricature of the first President's wife) and you will find the predominating type based upon early Greek profiles. These were excellent examples to follow, but our native coin designers do not seem to have possessed sufficient skill of hand to preserve the consummate beauty of their Greek models while adapting them to the use of American coinage. The nearest approach to a practical coin ideal is that which is on our silver twenty-five cent pieces and our nickel five-cent bits, but this head, as already noted, has come surreptitiously by way of modern France rather than straight from the golden age of the Hellenic empire. We might do far worse than copy slavishly some of the exquisite heads and figures on the coins of old Greece, or those of the Phoenicians: or follow the careful artisanship of the Egyptians, or even the intricately beautiful designs of the Henry and Edwards and Richards of a later day and a nearer kinship to the living.

Suggestions for Better Coins.

Perhaps the making of a great coin is like the writing of a great poem, or the formulation of a great law—it must have its birth in some large national event, some fiercely heroic deed, or some keenly felt national desire. In Roman days events like the conquering of Egypt and the taking of Gaul were commemorated by the minting of a new coin whereon the story was briefly told. The whole history of the English people is narrated in the coinage of Great Britain from Edward the Confessor to Edward the Sportsman. Why, therefore, should not the American nation take unto itself the wholesome, if ingenuous, system of writing contemporaneous history in symbols of silver, copper and gold. Our coinage to date has been sporadic, unsatisfying and footless in an artistic and legendary sense. With the exception of the few early coins bearing a likeness of Washington, we have no national mintage immortalizing the features or perpetuating the rule of our Presidents. Our postage stamps and paper currency constitute a great art gallery of every name and countenance familiar to United States history, while our coins have borne naught but foreign-looking maidens and ill-proportioned birds. Paper money and postage stamps are, by their very nature, ephemeral, but metal coins are enduring.

In all seriousness the plea for a new coinage, preferably in the standard metal and of a low denomination, is here made: a coinage which shall give us with accuracy and art the profiles of our great and glorious dead—Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, Grant, Garfield. Perhaps American precedent and practice in such undertakings might be waived for once and the first of the new coins stamped with a likeness of Theodore Roosevelt. There might be partisan objection to this, however, although the fact is patent that he will always remain one of the Presidents of the United States, and as such must be recorded in history. The coins of every country boasting its own currency have upon them the counterfeit presentments of their chief figures, and surely the world's foremost nation in commerce and the art of making money, should, before a much longer lapse of time, have some token of its place and power in the field of civilization more individual, more concerte, more inherently and

intrinsically national than a series of uncomfortable lady "Liberties," backed up by a miscellany of shooting stars or an aviary of eagles whose talons are eternally enmeshed in useless darts and nondescript herbage.

OBITUARY

SIR JOHN EVANS, K. C. B.

We learn with regret through Spink's Numismatic Circular, of the death of Sir John Evans on Sunday, June 1st. He was one of the few honorary members of the American Numismatic Association, and one of the greatest antiquarians of the world. He was in his eighty-fifth year at the time of his death. His death has deprived half of the most important learned societies in England of their head, and taken away from science a true and generous friend. He became honorary secretary of the Numismatic Society (now Royal) in 1854, and its president twenty years later, and continued to edit its journal until his death. He was a member of the Society of Antiques, and occupied its chair from 1885 to 1892. He was a trustee of the British Museum, and presided over the meeting of the British Association in 1897-1898. He was created K. C. B. in 1892. He also occupied an enviable position in other scientific societies and societies of learning. He was considered an authority on the antiques of his native country, and was the author of several very valuable articles and books on the subject.

The coin trade of the country has of late suffered considerably from thievery. Successful raids were made on the establishments of New York dealers and some private collectors. We learn that Low, Proskey and Negreen have been visited by thieves, and that the collection of Mr. Lighthouse of Rochester and that of Mr. Stanchfield of Seattle were partly stolen. Mr. Lighthouse was fortunate in recovering most of his coins and landing the thieves behind the bars. The coin thief caught in Elder's office is believed to be the same fellow who was caught stealing coins in 1890 in Chapman's store. Mr. Low also thinks he is the same fellow who brought a rare gold piece in to him a few years ago, and left it, never coming back for it, his suspicions of being caught having been aroused.

One of our readers suggested that we publish the photos of some of the large collections of the country. We believe the idea is a good one, and will be glad to hear from collectors in regard to any interesting coins they may have, together with a short sketch or history of the coins.

"I think your Numismatic Monthly is an excellent publication, and wish you every success."

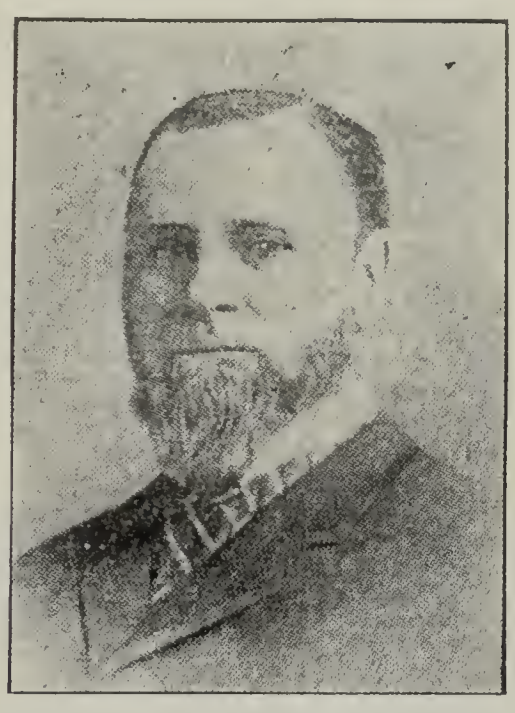
J. ARMSTRONG FOSTER.
Chestwood, England.

OUR NEXT NUMBER.

The September issue of the Monthly will be our special Pre-Convention number. From the material we already have on hand we believe we will be able to give the American numismatist the most complete history of the American Numismatic Association, together with numerous discussions as to the present needs of the Association, that has ever before been published in any one issue of any magazine. We have good, interesting articles from Messrs. Zerbe, Wood, Duffield, Hassler, Raymond, Green and others. We would like to hear from more of the officers, as well as the members of the Association. And we will appreciate any article treating on the A. N. A. We want articles of about 300 to 600 words. Let us hear from you. Anything intended for publication in the September issue must be in our hands not later than the 15th of August.

A Fine Numismatic Career Ended

DEWITT S. SMITH, ONE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST NUMISMATISTS, DIES AT HIS HOME AT LEE, MASS.



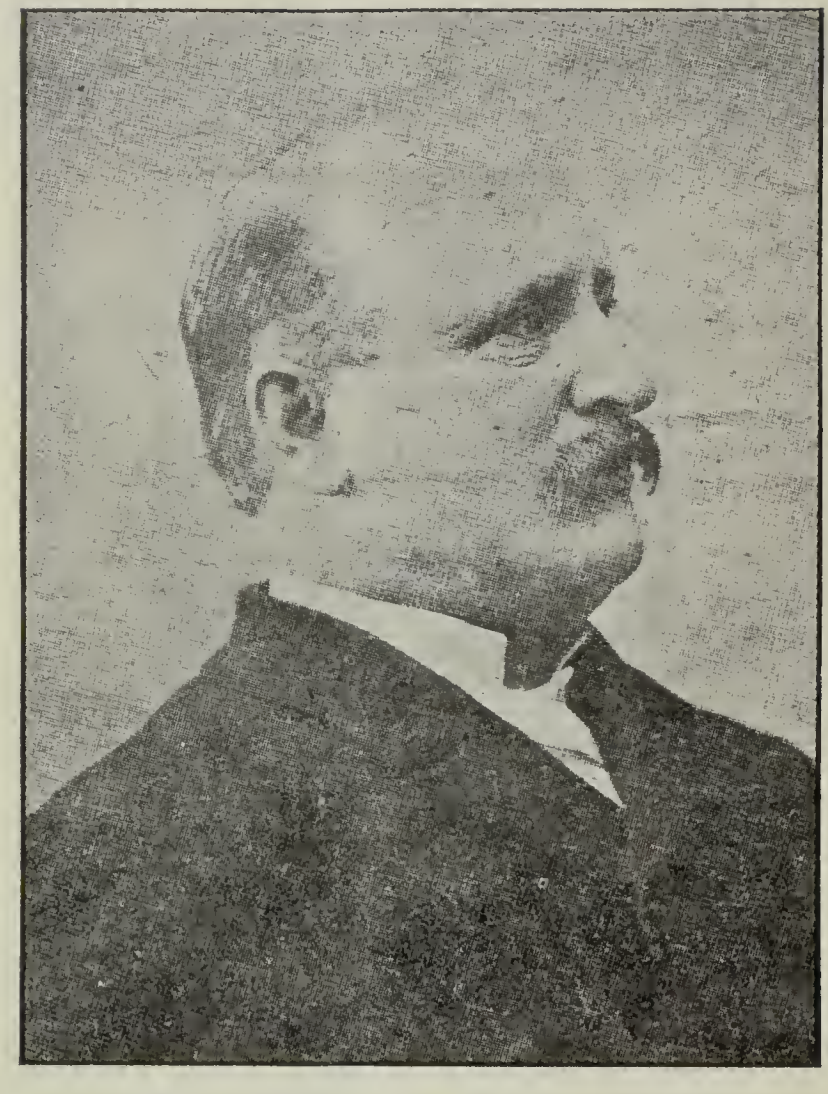
THE LATE DEWITT S. SMITH

New York City, June 30, 1908.

To the Editor of Mehl's Numismatic Monthly—Sir:

On Friday evening last, at Lee, Mass., passed away Mr. Dewitt S. Smith, thought by many to have been the greatest collector of American coins. He was certainly one of the world's greatest numismatists. Although Mr. Smith took up the study of coins within the last twenty years, his interest in the pursuit was intense from the first, and continued unabated up until the day of his death. Only three or four days prior to his death the writer had a correspondence with him, and purchased for him many coins in the sale of June 17th in Philadelphia. To Mr. Smith's kindness and unswerving honesty we as numismatists are ready and glad to attest. As in the case of Dr. Heath, his place will hardly be filled. His interest in numismatists and their affairs stood only second to his interest in the coins themselves. His judgment was valued by all of us. For years he expected to die at any moment, but this did not deter him from adding to, or improving his collection, whenever opportunity offered. Although very ill at the Stickney sale, he set all our nerves a tingling by his bid of $6,100 on the Brasher doubloon, and by the keen competition which he aroused in the sale of the rare American Colonials. It is understood that his collection of American Colonials is unapproached by any other, while his private gold collection may be the finest known.

Of the Numismatists Messrs. S. H. Chapman, J. C. Mitchelson, Carl Wurtzbach and myself attended the services, which were held in the Congregational church at Lee on Saturday last. Yours truly, THOS. L. ELDER.



THE LATE DR. GEORGE F. HEATH

Dr. George F. Heath

Great Patron of Numismatics Joins the Great Majority.

FARRRAN ZERBE.

[This tribute was intended for publication in the July MONTHLY, but it reached us too late to be inserted in that issue. We think, however, that our readers will bear with us that too much cannot be said of the dear old doctor.]—Ed.

Dr. Heath is dead and in that we are sad. Numismatic America has cause to mourn; it has lost a great patron. The American Numismatic Association is bereft of its founder, the spokesman of its deeds, a faithful officer and an ardent member. The society of men is the poorer, it has lost a fellow who was A MAN.

Dr. Heath was a champion to numismatic America. More as a student than a collector, he pursued numismatics as a science; he found interest in all its great scope, but specialized in defined devisions for his own intellectual profit and pleasure. As a publisher he served our subject as no other has done, giving his time and money without a promise of direct pecuniary profit. For more than twenty years he published the Numismatist, and through it dis-

persed more popular information on money and kindred subjects than did any man in his day, if ever before.

The Numismatist was his "body," he told me so a year ago. From a mite of a leaflet he nourished it to gratifying proportions, and wanted to care for it to full maturity. The Numismatist is in its twenty-first year.

Dr. Heath was member number one in the American Numismatic Association, and recognized by the few who founded the Association as the greatest factor in its inception. The Numismatist soon became its official organ, and has since been the keystone in the arch of that which has grown to be the most cherished, useful and powerful organization of its class. He has faithfully served the Association in various offices, was for several years its president and was its treasurer at the time of his death.

The founder is dead, but the strong structure to which he was the greatest contributor gives promise of perpetuity that will revere for all time the memory of Dr. Heath and his services to the subject of Numismatics.

REPORT OF THE FUNERAL OF DR. GEO. F. HEATH. BY DR. J. M. HENDERSON.

Mr. B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas—My Dear Sir:

It was my sad duty to attend the funeral of our beloved treasurer and editor of our official publication, The Numismatist, at Monroe, Mich., and I submit to you the following report as seen by one in attendance. You will pardon me if I pay a little tribute to the Doctor as a MAN and friend.

With all that may be written by others more competent than I, enough cannot be said, so will tell you of the love and respect in which the Doctor was held by his fellow townsmen of Monroe. Upon receipt of word of the sudden and unexpected death of Dr. Heath, I immediately repaired to Monroe, arriving there Friday morning, the day of the funeral. I was at once impressed with the fact that some great sorrow had befallen these people, for they were gathred in groups, and businss was at a standstill, and indeed was entirely suspended (as per inclosed proclamation of the Mayor) during the hours of the funeral. To come among these people suddenly, as I did, and note the universal bereavement, from the wealthiest and most influential of its citizens, to the poorest, you might have thought their King had died, and indeed, a **king** had died, for a Man, an UNSELFISH MAN, had gone to his reward, and a MAN is greater than a king. I had occasion to visit a dozen or more homes in Monroe on the following day, and found only sorrow there, and heard many tributes paid his memory which I would like to relate, but time forbids. The funeral was the largest ever held in Monroe, and was attended by all the ex-Mayors, who acted as honorary pall bearers, all the city officials, the medical societies and the various organizations to which the Doctor belonged. The body lay in state at his late residence, and there was a constant stream of friends passing the bier to get a last glimpse of their beloved friend. The church could hold only a very small portion of those who desired to attend the service there. The Doctor was a member of a Protestant branch of the Church of God, a Methodist, but at the open grave, standing side by side, was the ministers of the various Protestant churches and the Catholic priest. What greater tribute could be paid to his unselfish life.

The floral tributes of friends and the various organizations, were very beautiful and in great profusion. The tribute of the American Numismatic Association was placed directly on the casket.

I will not attempt to say anything about the life work of Dr. Heath, as I

know this will be provided from another source. For the present, and until other arrangements can be made, Mrs. Heath will continue to publish the Numismatist. If I have neglected to state any facts of importance to you, or can be of any further service to you, or the A. N. A., I shall be pleased to have you command me. Sincerely yours, J. M. HENDERSON.

STEIGERWALT'S SALE.

Among the best prices realized for coins at the Steigerwalt sale held in New York on June 30th, the following is a partial list:

1795 Dollar, brilliant	$10.75
1854 Dollar, brilliant	10.00
1896 Half dollar, 16 stars	44.00
1797 Half dollar, about good	17.50
1796 Quarter, unc.	27.50
1793 Chain cent, very fine	15.00
New England shilling	44.50

We now have on hand a very interesting lot of the average specimens of ancient coins. These coins afford the most interesting study in our science. We will gladly send a nice selection on approval to anyone interested in this series. If you are not interested in Ancients, you will be, after you examine a few of the pieces we have to offer. Address orders to B. Max Mehl, Box No. 826, Fort Worth, Texas.

Hon. R. C. Crane of Sweetwater, Texas, paid us a very pleasant visit recently. Mr. Crane is a candidate for the State Senate from the Twenty-eighth District, and was on a little campaigning tour through here. It affords us much pleasure to meet any of our subscribers and members of the A. N. A. When down in Texas, be sure to drop in to see us.

Clippings were thankfully received from Messrs. Hinkley, Poillon, Nicklewicz, Kohler, Warner, Bugbee, Richards and Foster. We appreciate these little favors very much, and are always glad to hear from our readers with any bits of coin news that they think might interest the readers of the Monthly.

We are in receipt of advices from London to the effect that Volume III of the Journal of the British Numismatic Society will be issued soon. The delay being caused by the illness of Mr. Andrew, who is one of the principal editors. The excellence of the previous volumes leads us to expect an extraordinary volume in Number III.

The new nickel Ana coins of India and the aluminum coins of Nigeria are some of the most interesting coins of modern issue. A small lot of these pieces were imported by Mehl, and he offers them in the advertising pages of this number of the Monthly. The coins are very interesting, and will not be out of place in any collection.

It was with much pleasure on our part that we learned through Mr. Zerbe that the Numismatist will be continued to be published. We are informed that Mr. Zerbe intends to visit Monroe soon, and undoubtedly proper arrangements will be made to carry on the good work.

Dr. Courteau, local secretary of the A. N. A. for Eastern Canada, informs us of the death of his beloved wife on June 13th. Dr. Corteau has the sympathy of the Monthly in his present bereavement.

Mr. Lagerberg informs us that the doubloon will cease to be a legal tender in the British West India Colonies after August 1st.

"I may say that I am greatly pleased with your magazine."

W. H. FAULDING.

Rossland, B. C.

THE CHICAGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The fifty-fourth monthly meeting of the above named society was held in their rooms, 1622 Masonic Temple, on Friday evening, July 3rd, President Virgil M. Brand presiding. The following members were present: Mssrs. Blumenschein, Merrill, Chester F. Dunham, Baker, Sorensen, Loer, Ripstra, Puttkamer, Lewis, Kelly, Green, V. M. Brand, Simpson, Excell and Leon. Messrs. Geo. K. Schmidt and Serge Tchijoff were elected to membership.

On motion the President appointed committees of three to draft resolutions on the death of our members, Dr. Geo. F. Heath of Monroe, Mich., and Mr. De Witt Smith of Lee, Mass.

Under exhibits, Mr. V. M. Brand showed two 100 crowns in gold and a Kohler California gold bar of the value of $36.55; Mr. Lewis a half dollar with two San Francisco reverses; Mr. Green some ancient; Mr. Blumenschein U. S. freaks, and Mr. Leon and Dr. Merrill Territorial gold.

The cabinet received a medal of Battery D of Chicago and a Sergeant at Arms badge from the late Republican convention. The following magazines were received since last meeting: The Numismatist, Spink's Numismatic Circular and Collectors' Monthly for June, and Mehl's Monthly for July. Catalogues were received from Feith, Green, Low and Steigerwalt.

Mr. S. A. Clemons was present as a visitor.

Adjourned to meet August 7, 1908.

BEN G. GREEN, Secretary.

GERMANY'S NEW COIN.

Germany will soon have a new coin of the value of a quarter mark, or 25 pfennigs. In order to distinguish the new piece readily from the 20-pfennig coin now in use the government has asked for designs with a perforation. Coins with a hole through the center are still in circulation in China and Japan, but their introduction was objected to by some artists in Germany on the ground that the perforated coin belonged to a past age. In answer to this argument the Welt Spiegel publishes the pictures of perforated coins which were recently made in England for circulation in an East African English colony, and humorist in a Hamburg paper says: "Give us the coins with holes in them by all means. We can string them like beads and tie them up and hold them, a process which seems to be beyond accomplishment in connection with the modern slippery coins and bills."—Kansas City Jurnal.

With each sample copy of the MONTHLY we send a subscription blank and a "Few Reasons" why you should subscribe to MEHL'S MONTHLY. If you do not think the "Reasons" are a good inducement to subscribe, just look through this number of the MONTHLY and think it over to yourself whether it is worth 50c a year—less than 5c per copy. We certainly give you fully more than twice the value of your subscription. And beginning with the August number, no more sample copies will be sent out to any of the names to whom sample copies were sent this year.

COMMUNICATIONS.

New York, June 30, 1908.

To the Editor Mehl's Numismatic Monthly, Fort Worth, Texas.

My Dear Mr. Mehl:

American Numismatists will mourn the loss of Dr. Heath, to whom the publishing of the Numismatist was an unselfish labor of love. No person can understand the financial difficulties which beset a numismatic editor until he has tried the experiment. There are always present the all-wise critics who point out to him his errors, and damn him by faint praise. If some of the collectors printed a numismatic magazine, or earned their livings by selling coins, they would revise their view-point very promptly. There will hardly be found another to do the same work that Dr. Heath did. Yours evry truly,

THOS. L. ELDER.

TWO RARE VARIETIES OF CONTINENTAL DOLLAR.

Obv. E. G. Fecit **over** the date. The Sun **high above** the dial. CURRENCY with two R's.

Reverse large N in American. The link inscribed Massachs. On the **right** of the link inscribed N. HANP'S.

Another rare variety, the word CURRENCY written thus, CURENCY, **only one R**; a comma under the N'; AMERICAN, **small** N.

"I have watched the issues of your Numismatic Monthly, and I think you deserve great credit, as your paper excells any that is published in this country, with the possible exception of the American Journal of Numismatics."

WAYTE RAYMOND.

A WORD ABOUT SAMPLE COPIES.

A good percentage of our present large list of subscribers was obtained through the liberal distribution of a large number of sample copies of the MONTHLY each month. Some parties received sample copies nearly every other month and others had the audacity of asking for a "sample copy" the "other" month that the sample copy did not reach them. Still others expect the magazine gratis on the strength that they are on the mailing list of the publisher, and that they once in a while patronize him with a purchase of coins. While the patronage of all honest collectors is most respectfully solicited, and while we do all we can to obtain and retain their patronage, but to furnish our magazine free to all our clients would involve an expense far in excess of the benefits we may derive.

PRESIDENT'S HEAD ON CANAL MEDAL.

Washington, June 19.—A medallion head of President Roosevelt is to be on one side of the medal which is to be awarded Isthmian Canal employes who have rendered two years' service on the Isthmus. On the other side of the medal is to be the seal of the canal zone. Each medal is to be suitably engraved, giving the name of the employe, number of the medal, the years of service and an evidence that it has been presented by the President of the United States.

Collectors of medals will do well to write to Mr. Warner for his latest catalogues of medals. Mr. Warner is too well known to need any recommendations. He has been established for nearly fifty years. Fair dealing and courteous treatment is assured to every patron.

A Tribute to Dr. Geo. F. Heath

BY HOWLAND WOOD.
General Secretary American Numismatic Association.

By the death of Dr. George Francis Heath, numismatics has lost one of its best advocates and helpers that this country has had. Knowing the Doctor and his work so well, I cannot refrain from saying a few words about him. Up to 1890 coin collectors in this country, with the exception of those in the larger cities, were unorganized and worked and collected, for the most part, unknown to one another and alone. What little for the better was done was to a large percent purposeless and without any coherent method. Dr. Heath early in his collecting career realized this situation and devised plans to remedy the defect. How to bring the scattered collector together, the collector in the country and in the small town, the beginner and the collector in the large city; for even in the larger cities there were many collectors that knew no other collector and many that knew no dealer, was the problem that confronted him. His first step was the publishing of a magazine, his next step was the formation of an association. The Numismatist and the American Numismatic Association were the results. This was but the beginning of the task, the real work was the maintaining of his initial efforts. Many numismatic publications have risen up in the land and have quietly passed away, many numismatic societies have been formed, and, after awhile have lapsed into a dotage forerunning oblivion. It was here that the personality of the Doctor came to the fore. On many an occasion and in many a year the big, generous, quiet, unassuming man slowly pounding away on one nail with the goal always clear before his eyes kept his two cherished projects alive and for the most part healthy. One failed him for a while, through no fault of his, but, with his whole energy directed on the other, he kept the numismatic interest in the country from tottering. Later, when the time seemed ripe, he was instrumental in reviving the one by means of the other. All this was some time ago, and today the results of his labors, the Association and his publications, stand out strong as a fitting monument to Dr. George F. Heath.

DR. GEORGE F. HEATH—A. N. A. NO. 1.

As we look backward we find that the latter part of the life of Dr. Heath was so interwoven with the history of the A. N. A. that it seemed impossible for anything but his death to sever their relations. Those relations have been severed by this event, and the suddenness with which it came confounds and staggers us.

Dr. Heath occupied a unique position in the Association. He was A. N. A. No. 1 in a broader sense than is expressed in the mere number. Almost continuously identified with its official family, he had at all times been an active, moving force for A. N. A. achievement. The Association was the creature of his numismatic zeal, and it is no less a source of satisfaction to us than it was to him that he was permitted before his death to see it placed upon a sure and broad foundation, and his completion of a full score of years as publisher and editor of the Numismatist.

Only recently I came across the following simile, which is so apropriate that I may be pardoned for borrowing it: "Once in walking through a forest I came upon a great tree that had been singled out as a mark for the lightning's stroke. Before its fall it

had towered above the surrounding trees of the wood, but now it lay prone at their feet, shattered by the rending bolt. And I noticed that in its fall it had torn and bruised the foliage of the neighboring trees, leaving them ragged and withering. A nest also, built in its branches, had been torn loose, and in its downfall had emptied out its contents of unhatched eggs or tender fledglings upon the ground. A great, ragged gap yawned toward the sky, which the fallen giant had once filled with its outstretching arms. And that gap I knew could never be healed. The surrounding trees, prompted by nature's generous impulse to heal the breach, might extend their branches. But never could the space be really filled which had been occupied by the fallen giant of the forest."

F. G. DUFFIELD.

Baltimore, Md., July 3, 1908.

RARE COIN GIVEN TO POPE COMPLETES COLLECTION.

Rome.—The Pope today received the members of the Sacred College, who greeted him on the occasion of his name day.

The pontiff told the cardinals how a certain gold coin had been given to him as a jubilee gift by the diocese of Acqui. This coin was discovered in 1898 while excavations were being made for the foundation of a new church at Acqui. It was found to be the only coin in existence of the period of Innocent IX, a pope who reigned for two months in 1591. The diocese of Acqui was unable to pay the architect who had drawn the plans for the new church, so it gave him the coin with the understanding that if he sold it for more than $1,200, the amount of his bill, the surplus should be returned to the diocese.

The architect accepted the gift, but he was unable to find a purchaser at the amount of his claim. He offered the coin to King Victor Emmanuel, but his majesty would not give more than $500. Later the clergy of the diocese collected the $1,200, bought the coin from the architect, and presented it to the pope.

This coin was the only one lacking to make complete the Vatican collection of coins issued under all the popes.

TRADE COLUMN

RATE—1c per word for WANT and EXCHANGE ads, and 2c per word for all FOR SALE ads. We require cash in advance for all Trade Column advertising. No ads accepted for less than 25c. Three insertions for the price of two.

If you have anything to sell or want to buy anything, try an ad in this column for satisfactory results.

OLD ARMY BUTTONS—Wanted or exchange, any that have numbers, letters or military emblem, any country, also belt buckles. G. O. W. Servis, Melrose, Mass. (Jul.)

50 STAMPS FOR 10c—Including India, France, Denmark, Japan, etc. 1,000 die cut hinges 12c. Address Charlie Craddock, Killeen, Texas. 3 (Sept.)

WANTED—U. S. Half Cents and Gold Dollars. Give description and price. G. J. Thomas, Fornfelt, Mo. 4 (Oct.)

WANTED—U. S. Fractional Currency, 3c, 5c and 15c notes. Will buy 1 or 100 or more. Will pay good price. Don't hesitate to send list. All letters answered. B. Max Mehl, Box 826, Fort Worth, Texas.

FOR SALE—A nice collection of large U. S. Cents. 60 dates, all dates issued excepting 4. Condition above the average. The early date about fair, the others good to very fine. Price for the collection only $10. B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas.

FOR SALE—Calif. Gold, $5. N. G. & N. (Norris, Griggs & Norris), 1849. The piece is about fine. A nick on edge. Very rare. From the famous O'Hagan collection. Price $32.00. B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas.

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